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July 16, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 134 – June 2018
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On June 4, EPA Region 2 (Region 2) and CPG held a teleconference to discuss the status of the Upper 9-mile Interim Action.
- On June 5, Region 2 and CPG held a Bioaccumulation Model/Calibration update meeting.
- On June 11, Region 2, Region 2 consultants, CPG and CPG consultants held a teleconference to discuss test projections.
- On June 27, Region 2 consultants and CPG consultants held a teleconference to discuss subsurface mapping issues.
- On June 28, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference to discuss the Upper 9-mile Interim Action.

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Correspondence

- On June 1, CPG provided materials to Region 2 that had been presented during the May 31, 2018 Chemical Fate & Transport (CFT) Model calibration status teleconference.
- On June 1, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails to coordinate the June 4 teleconference to discuss the status of the Upper 9-mile Interim Action.
- On June 1, Region 2 provided comments on Section 8 of the Draft 17-mile RI Report to CPG.
- On June 6 and 7, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the status of the Upper 9-mile Interim Action agency discussions.
- On June 11, CPG submitted responses to comments (RTCs) on Region 2 comments on Sections 1 through 4 of the Draft 17-mile RI Report.
- On June 12, CPG provided Region 2 a summary of the June 5 Bioaccumulation Model/Calibration Update meeting.
- On June 12, Region 2 provided CPG a revised technical memorandum on the sensitivity of partitioning data used in the Bioaccumulation Model and papers addressing relevant subjects for the Bioaccumulation Model.
- On June 14, Region 2 provided Region 2 and Partner Agency comments on Section 5 and Appendices A and F of the Draft 17-mile RI Report to CPG.
- On June 15, CPG delivered the May Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On June 19, CPG provided the Bioaccumulation Model input files, updated script and input templates to Region 2.
- On June 20, Region 2 provided a corrected revised technical memorandum on the sensitivity of partitioning data used in the Bioaccumulation Model and a revised summary of the June 5 Bioaccumulation Modeling Update meeting to CPG.
- On June 20, CPG confirmed to Region 2 that Section 8 of the Draft 17-mile RI Report would be revised to adopt the executive summary and summary conclusions sections from the approved July 2017 17-mile Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment (BHHRA).
- On June 21, CPG provided Region 2 a revised meeting summary from the June 5 Bioaccumulation Modeling Update meeting and confirmed a July 10 date for a meeting to discuss the additional calibration work on the Bioaccumulation Model.
- On June 25, CPG requested a web-meeting update on July 12 or 14 for the Bioaccumulation Model.
- On June 26, Region 2 confirmed a July 12 web-meeting date with CPG to discuss the Bioaccumulation Model and requested the dynamic model code and inputs.
- On June 26 and 27, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails arranging a teleconference to update the status of the Upper 9-mile agency discussions.
- On June 26, CPG consultants provided a write-up discussing subsurface mapping issues to Region 2 consultants.
- On June 29, CPG uploaded revised Section 8 of the Draft 17-mile RI Report to Region 2's SharePoint site.

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Work

- CPG continued work to address Region 2's comments on the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report and Model Appendices.
- CPG continued work on calibration of the revised LPR/Newark Bay CFT model.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the LPR Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG continued work on revision of Newark Bay Model documentation.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- None.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue work on the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report and Model Appendices in response to Region 2 comments. The Executive Summary, Summary, Conclusions, and References Sections of the revised Draft RI Report and Appendix P (Bioaccumulation Modeling) have been partially revised, but additional collaboration with Region 2 is required to complete their revision.
- CPG will continue calibration of the revised LPR/Newark Bay CFT model and continue to work with HDR to complete the calibration.
- CPG will continue revising and calibrating the LPR Bioaccumulation Model pursuant to Region 2 comments.
- CPG will continue work on Newark Bay Model documentation.
- CPG will continue discussions with Region 2 regarding comments on the Upper 9-mile Interim Action.

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

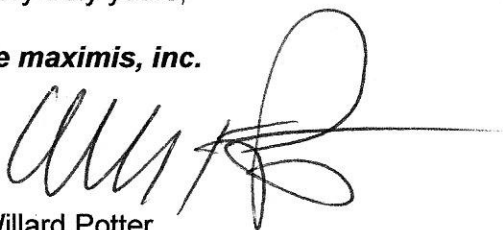
- **Feasibility Study (FS)** – Region 2, NJDEP and the CPG are currently discussing the refocus of the FS to an upper 9 miles Interim Action
- **Other Documents** - There are number of reports and technical memos (both original and revised submissions) that have been submitted to Region since 2011 that the CPG is awaiting either approval or Region 2's comments. These reports include:
 1. Upstream Reference Benthic Data Report – submitted August 2013
 2. Background Sediment Data Report – submitted October 2013

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If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.



Willard Potter
CPG Project Coordinator

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel
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